

22nd June 2025



Desperate measures

Most of us will have experienced that awful feeling that we are never, ever going to achieve something for which we have longed. Circumstances always turned against us, often at the last moment, and nothing good seemed to emerge from the events that surrounded us. Our circumstances were driving us to despair, and we were giving up any hope we had for a positive outcome. This is the starting point for both of our readings this week. We are treated to two beautifully constructed stories which are rich in detail, dramatic, exciting and easy to digest and remember. In our Old Testament reading Elijah is at his wits end as he faces the prospect that the nation he loved and served had turned completely away from God. In the land of the Gerasenes, Jesus encounters a demon-possessed man at the end of his tether - his illness and behaviour were so extreme that he had been cast out of his town, thrown into chains (which could not restrain him) and left to live in the cemetery.

What links these stories together is the way that the sufferers find healing and purpose through an encounter with God. Elijah, severely depressed, seeks God at Mount Sinai and, like Moses before him, is not disappointed. God's earthquake, wind and fire pass in front of Elijah and in the following silence he meets face to face with God, who restores him to health and gives him new purpose. God sends Elijah back home to Israel to fulfil his prophetic mission there. The demon-possessed man may not have been looking for God but he recognised him in Jesus as soon as he saw him. He took his chance completely to be healed but at great cost to the herd of pigs. Jesus commanded him to go home and tell the wonderful story of how Jesus had made him whole once more.

However badly life seems to treat us, however desperate we feel, these stories, and many others, remind us that wherever we are, God has got their first and is waiting to ameliorate our wounds and transform our lives. He will also send us out with new and enriched purpose.

Lindsay



Please pray for...



Catherine McBride, Brian McClellan, John Panter, Jenny Wade, Mary Senior, Jill Alexander's daughter, Jodie, Nita's grandson, Ben, Debra Deeley's son-in-law, Andy and Helen Sweet's son-in-law, Alan Dean.

Gill Carley would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support. Her operation was successful and she is recovering well.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name to be added or removed from this list.

Update on Catherine

Most of you will know that Catherine went into hospital last weekend. Following an operation, she is now back home. She is being told by both Bishop Sarah and Archdeacon Nick to rest and recuperate and should not be working until fully recovered. Catherine would like to thank everyone for their cards, thoughts and prayers, and asks that no-one ring or drop round to the vicarage for the time being.

Until her return, all matters should be referred to Peter, Lay Reader or Elaine, Operations Manager, in the first instance.

Fire! - update

An insurance claim has been made and the church will gradually be cleaned and the South Door replaced. This is not a fast process, especially not the replacement of the door. The church is now much less smoky but it is still noticeable each morning, after the church has been closed overnight. We are looking for help to keep the church ventilated, especially in the afternoons and weekends when Helen is not in the office. We need at least two people at all times, one in the office or vestry and one near the East door. If you are prepared to be in the church purely to keep the doors open, please let Elaine Cook know.

Songs of Praise

3.30pm on Sunday 22nd June at Market Drayton Methodist Church. All are welcome to this informal gathering. Coffee, tea and cakes are served as you sing your favourite hymns.



Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Morning Worship

Readings **1 Kings 19. 1-4, 8-15a Luke 8. 26-39**

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion



IONA Communion

Sunday 22 June 2025 6.30pm

Reading: Acts 27. 1-12

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

<https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media>

Pioneering Parishes

Maybe you've heard the term 'pioneering' used of certain church activities, or heard people referred to as 'Pioneer Ministers' ...and maybe you've wondered 'what's that all about?'

As the name suggests, pioneer ministry is predominantly outward focussed, directed towards those not already part of the worshipping community – and one of its key features is that it tends to emerge from something else that is already happening, which God seems to be really using to draw people together. Lichfield Diocese have enlisted the services of an organisation called Pioneering Parishes, who enable churches to become more outward-looking and recognise what God is already doing in their midst and in their communities - things which can become opportunities for engaging people with the Christian faith. They have already begun working with Rugeley Deanery and now Wem & Whitchurch Deanery have asked if Hodnet Deanery would like to join with them to explore how they might help our churches too.

A taster session will be held on **Saturday 28th June, 9.30am-3.30pm at St Mary's Parish Rooms**. Anybody who is interested is welcome.

Please let Elaine Cook know if you would like to attend, *even if you have previously let Catherine know.*

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

UHT Milk (blue & green); Long-life Fruit Juice; Tinned Fruit; Sponge Pudding; Biscuits; Toilet Rolls; Sanitary Towels; Shampoo; Cleaning Products; Non-biological washing pods; Size 3 Nappies; Men's Deodorant.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Concert in aid of our organ fund

Come to a concert on **Saturday 23rd August** by Shifnal



Male Voice Choir, with guest soloist Elaine Cook. Tickets £10 from Elaine. All proceeds to the organ fund.

Congratulations

To John Panter, who will be 80 on 22nd June.



Schoolreaders is a charity that finds local people who

are able to visit a local primary school to listen to children read individually and help to improve their reading and comprehension skills. Volunteers visit their school weekly for an hour or two in term time (holidays can be taken during the school year). They need to have good written and spoken English, but they do not need any other skills or prior experience. They will also need to have a DBS check carried out, but this is done by the school and is at no cost to the volunteer. The charity is currently in need of extra volunteers in the Market Drayton area. More information can be found on their website

<https://www.schoolreaders.org/>

Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.